

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS

OF THE

STATE ALMSHOUSE,

AT BRIDGEWATER.

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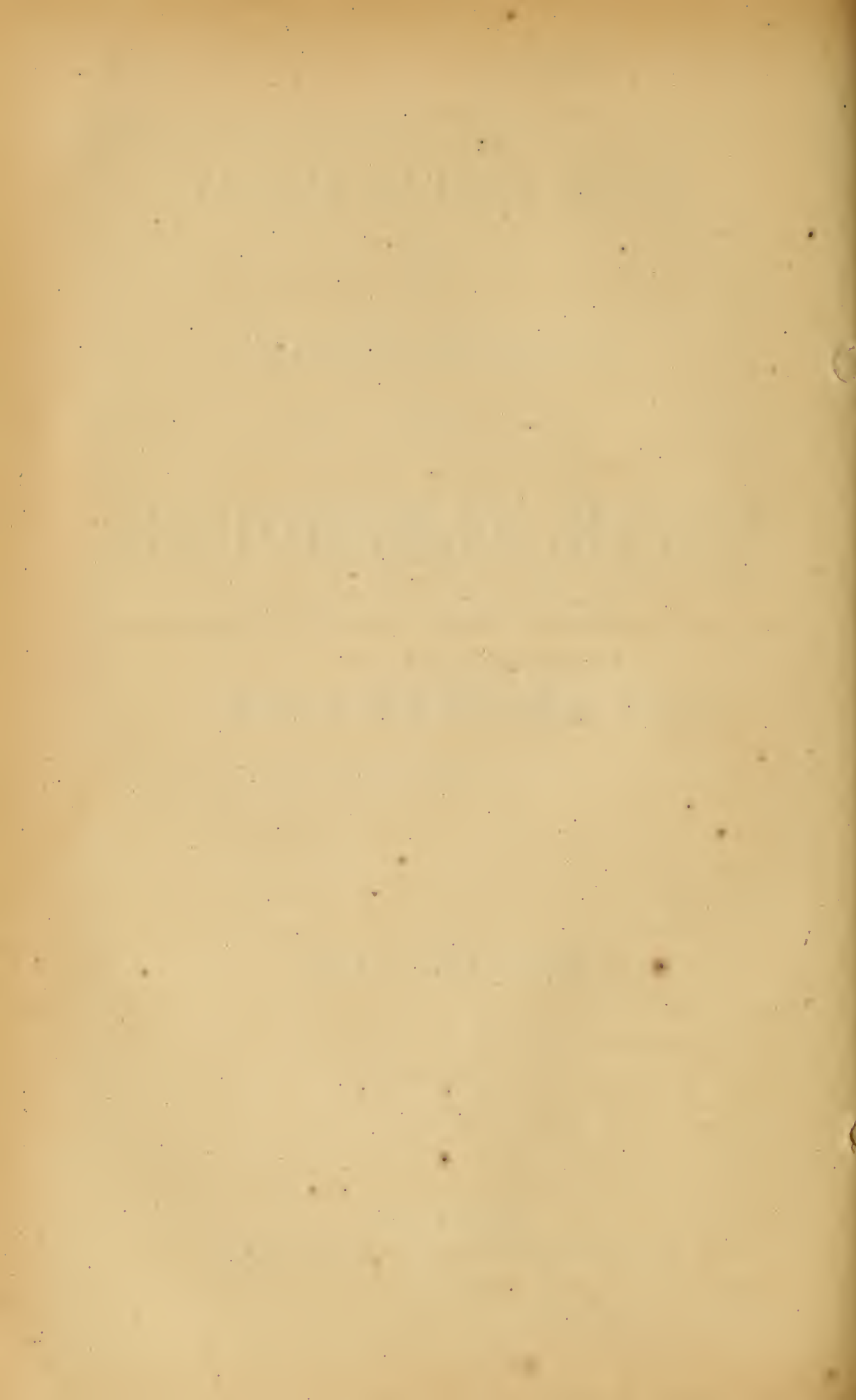
OCTOBER, 1858.

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1858.



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## INSPECTORS' REPORT.

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*To His Excellency the Governor, and the Honorable Council  
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

Another financial year being about to close, it becomes the duty of the undersigned to give an account of their stewardship.

In compliance with that duty, the Inspectors of the State Almshouse at Bridgewater respectfully submit for your consideration the following Report.

It will be recollected that this Report covers an entire year, while the Report of last year included ten months only, occasioned by the change of time for making the reports.

Owing to the financial embarrassments with which the country has been visited during the past year, the number of the needy and the destitute has been greatly increased, and the public charitable institutions of the State have been largely called upon for assistance and relief.

During some portions of the year, the State almshouse at Bridgewater has been crowded with inmates, a large portion of whom were of the lowest, most degraded, worn-out, idiotic classes of human beings.

The number has varied, of those in the almshouse at any one time, from five hundred and fifty to over eleven hundred.

The crowded state of the house; during the winter and a portion of the spring, rendered it necessary to put a larger number into a room than was desirable for the health or comfort of the inmates.. This was deeply regretted by the Superintendent and Inspectors, but it was a necessity wholly beyond their control.

The large number of the partially insane and idiotic requiring more room than those in health, contributed in no small degree to fill up and crowd the house.

Great pains have been taken to obtain a free and sufficient circulation of pure air in all the rooms. Scientific and practical men were employed, more than a year since, to examine the premises and cause the same to be thoroughly ventilated. Ventilators were constructed under the direction of, and approved by, experienced and intelligent workmen; and, as is believed, amply sufficient, with a proper number only in each room, to secure a sufficient circulation of fresh air. But experience has disclosed the fact that no safe ventilation can keep the air free from impurity in rooms crowded with the sick and diseased.

The rooms of the hospitals are capacious, neat and airy, warm, and for the number now occupying them, sufficiently ventilated.

In the hospital for those afflicted with weak and diseased eyes, the walls have been painted green for the benefit of those occupying the rooms.

The number of acute diseases in the hospital is small; and the whole number of the sick now in the hospitals is also small.

During some portions of the winter and spring last past, the number of sick in the hospitals and the number of deaths was larger than usual; at the present time, the number of sick and the number of deaths is less than usual. The number of inmates in the winter was double the number now in the alms-house. A much larger number than ever before of those admitted in the winter and the early part of spring, was in the last stages of disease when admitted. The unavoidable crowded state of the hospitals at that time was, beyond a doubt, a cause of some sickness, and increased the malady of those sick from other causes. Scarlet fever, measles, consumption, and diseased eyes among the children, have prevailed most extensively, and



with the exception of diseased eyes, have been more fatal in their results than any other disease.

Every effort was made by the Superintendent, the Resident Physician, and their faithful assistants, which skill, medicine, nourishment, careful nursing, capacious and clean rooms and beds well aired, could contribute for the restoration, comfort and relief of the sick. The consulting physician was called in and his advice taken; nourishment of whatever kind and amount, called for by the attending physician, was promptly furnished from the Superintendent's family larder and prepared in his private family kitchen.

Had the hospitals been less crowded in midwinter, the sick would have breathed easier, and disease might have been stayed or mitigated; but in rooms, crowded with the sick of every variety of disease, and in some of its most malignant forms when admitted, no amount of ventilation can keep the lungs inflated with pure and unadulterated air. We therefore most respectfully but most earnestly recommend that the number of inmates in the State almshouses may be limited, beyond which no admissions can be effected.

Good and wholesome food in ample variety and quantity, decent and comfortable clothing, clean and warm beds, are daily prepared for the inmates; and their lodging rooms are not inferior to those of respectable private families.

But a small proportion of those in the almshouse are able to labor. A large number are too aged and infirm; a still larger number are too young; some are idiotic; some are cripples; many are partially insane; and a large number are confined to their beds or their rooms with sickness.

The almshouse is divided into wards. In the female department each ward has a matron, who, under the direction of the Superintendent, has charge of the inmates in her ward.

In the male wards, the chief assistant, under the direction also of the Superintendent, has charge of the male adults, those in the hospitals excepted.

The children, old enough and well enough to attend school, are under the care and instruction of their respective teachers, as well out of as during school hours.

Children not old enough to attend school, and such children as are in the hospitals sick, are placed under the care of their

mothers, if they have any in the almshouse; if they have no mother there, such children are placed in care of nurses provided for them.

In the male hospitals a chief nurse is employed, who with the patients in the male hospital and such assistants as may be necessary, are under the care and direction of the resident physician.

The partially insane (the number is large), are in capacious rooms, separate from the other inmates, connected with which is a large yard inclosed for and used as a promenade ground by that class of the inmates.

Two schools, one for boys the other for girls, with about one hundred and fifty children in both schools, at the present time, are kept daily, (Sundays excepted); among the scholars in these schools are some who would be no discredit to our public schools.

Cradles, at the suggestion of eminent physicians, have been furnished for the infant department; but experience and observation have led us very strongly to doubt their utility in warm weather, especially for the sick.

Religious services, by the worthy and intelligent Chaplain, Rev. Samuel Richardson, are had in the chapel every Sabbath morning.

In the afternoon, all who wish, assemble in one of the large halls for a social interview, and spend an hour or two in reading and in an interchange of friendly greetings.

Such of the inmates as are able, are required to labor; always having a due regard to their health, strength, and ability.

The Superintendent, than whom very few better understand their business, is as careful of the feeble and decrepit, as he is firm with the lazy and the obstinate. The males are employed upon the farm, in the workshops, in the bakery, in the cook-rooms, in the hospitals, and in whatever they can be made most useful. The number of males able to labor is small.

The number of females able to labor is larger than that of the males. They are variously employed; some in the sewing room, in making and repairing garments for the inmates; some in cleaning the hospitals and other parts of the buildings; in attending upon the sick; in the washing and ironing depart-



ment, and in such other domestic work as may be deemed necessary.

Alterations and improvements have been made during the year past upon the buildings and upon the farm.

A separate cook-room, designed particularly for the sick, is in preparation.

The resident physician's rooms have been remodelled and enlarged. Additional out-buildings have been erected, and other necessary repairs and improvements in and around the buildings.

Important improvements have been made upon the farm, under the supervision of the Superintendent, alike creditable to him and beneficial to the Commonwealth.

Large tracts of land have been cleared and cultivated; hundreds of fruit and forest trees have been set in the ground; neat and substantial walls have been built with the stones taken from the farm, and portions of the yards, avenues and roads, upon and around the premises have been Macadamized from the labor of the inmates.

Large tracts of land have been planted with potatoes and other vegetables, from which an abundant supply has been anticipated; but that fatal disease in the vegetable kingdom has attacked the potato crop; to what extent damage is sustained cannot now be ascertained.

When we had the honor, last year, to submit our Report, the time for harvesting had not arrived; as we then stated, it was not possible to make an estimate, with any probable degree of certainty, of the quantity or quality of the productions of the farm.

At a subsequent period, when the earth had yielded her increase and the harvest was ended, it was found that the yield had been liberal in quantity, and not inferior in quality. More than two thousand bushels of potatoes were harvested, with other vegetables in abundance.

During the time when the almshouse was most crowded with inmates, there were some able-bodied men among them, who, having no employment and no means of subsistence, sought shelter in this home for the needy. But this was at a time when their services were of no account; it being the most

inclement season of the year when but little could be done profitably on the farm, and still less by them within doors.

In addition to the resident physician, who is daily at his post, an eminent and skilful physician has been employed, who attends in cases of difficulty and emergency, when the resident physician wishes for counsel and advice, or from any cause is unable to attend upon his patients.

For a general summary of the inmates of the almshouse, also of the disbursements and receipts, all of which have been audited by us, we refer to the report of the Superintendent, which with the reports of the Resident Physician and the Chaplain, are appended to, and constitute a part of this Report; to all of which reports we respectfully refer for a more detailed statement of facts than is herein before given.

We take great pleasure in again expressing our confidence in, and cordial approval of, the able and faithful management of the almshouse by the present Superintendent, L. L. Goodspeed, Esq.; nor would we withhold the meed of praise justly due to his estimable lady, the chief matron of the institution. It is also due to the other officers, matrons and assistants, employed in and around the establishment, some of them for years, to state that generally they have been attentive and faithful in whatever department they have been occupied.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

JAMES FORD,  
WM. B. MAY,  
J. H. MITCHELL,

*Inspectors.*

STATE ALMSHOUSE, BRIDGEWATER, }  
September 30, 1858. }



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

*To the Inspectors of the State Pauper Establishment, at  
Bridgewater:—*

GENTLEMEN,—Agreeably to the by-laws of your Board, and the law of the Commonwealth, I herewith submit a statement of the payments, receipts, and other items pertaining to the management of the institution, for the year ending September 30th, 1858.

## SUMMARY OF INMATES.

Number in the house, October 1st, 1857, . . .	598
Admitted since, (including 76 births,) . . .	1,611
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Whole number who have received support during the year,	2,209
Number discharged, returned and placed at service, 1,367	
died, . . . . .	287
eloped, . . . . .	30
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	1,684
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Number remaining October 1st, 1858, . . .	525
Men, . . . . .	131
Women, . . . . .	160
Boys under 15 years of age, . . .	134
Girls " " " " . . .	100
	<hr/>
	525

## EXPENDITURES.

For salaries, . . . . .	\$6,238 40
labor of mechanics on repairs, . . .	264 19
dry goods and bedding, . . . . .	3,109 13

For clothing, . . . . .	\$1,157 00
shoes and leather, . . . . .	946 87
medicines for hospital, . . . . .	497 24
beef and working cattle, . . . . .	1,415 00
expense of returning paupers, . . . . .	244 71
hay and straw, . . . . .	768 82
transportation of merchandise, . . . . .	855 04
corn, meal and oats, . . . . .	801 79
milk, . . . . .	1,750 85
trees, . . . . .	74 09
fuel, . . . . .	2,472 50
harnesses, . . . . .	26 00
crockery, tin, glass, and hardware, . . . . .	273 04
books, stationery, and post office expense, . . . . .	129 94
lumber, lime, cement, and bricks, . . . . .	476 00
iron and wood bedsteads, . . . . .	550 00
furniture, . . . . .	146 28
farm implements and seeds, . . . . .	73 55
painting and stock for do., . . . . .	135 29
hats and caps, . . . . .	221 37
hay scales, . . . . .	85 57
crackers, . . . . .	372 15
small groceries, . . . . .	193 58
fresh fish, . . . . .	222 97
fresh meat, . . . . .	3,557 18
beans, . . . . .	104 35
potatoes, . . . . .	219 27
plaster, . . . . .	52 75
justices' fees for committing lunatics, . . . . .	32 05
physician's fees, (additional,) . . . . .	108 50
for carpenters, on new work, . . . . .	294 94
plumbing and mason work, . . . . .	136 22
smith work, . . . . .	178 54
pump, . . . . .	42 43
setting boiler and repairs of another, . . . . .	224 60
soap, . . . . .	286 09
tea, coffee and chocolate, . . . . .	847 16
apples, . . . . .	37 50
tobacco, snuff and pipes, . . . . .	150 00
nails, glass, &c., &c., . . . . .	33 25

For hops and malt, . . . . .	\$49 12
provisions and groceries—flour, beef, pork, molasses, sugar, rice, oil, salt, &c., &c., .	13,179 10
salaries, and expenses of inspectors, for nine months, . . . . .	423 57
Total amount of expenditure for the year,	\$43,457 99

## RECEIPTS.

Cash by sales from farm, and money left by inmates deceased, . . . . .	\$1,143 22
From Treasurer of Commonwealth, . . . . .	41,891 20
Amount received by Superintendent, . . . . .	\$43,034 42
Inspectors, . . . . .	423 57
Total receipts, . . . . .	\$43,457 99

*Expenses that should not be charged to support of inmates.*

Materials for building purposes, . . . . .	\$376 00
Transporting and returning paupers, . . . . .	244 71
Bedsteads and other furniture, . . . . .	696 28
Fees of physicians, (additional,) . . . . .	108 50
Labor of carpenters, . . . . .	294 94
Plumbing and mason work, . . . . .	136 22
Steam pipe and other materials, . . . . .	196 44
Pump, . . . . .	42 43
Painting and stock for do., . . . . .	135 29
Excess of fuel on hand, above last year, . . . . .	236 38
beef stock " " " . . . . .	150 00
	\$2,617 19

The cost of supporting each inmate for the whole year, has been . . . . .	\$53 04
Cost of each per week, has been . . . . .	1 02

Of the appropriation made by the legislature for the support of the house for the year 1858, there is remaining the sum of \$9,777.92, all of which, no doubt, will be needed by the close of the year, December 31, 1858.

From the fact that a majority of the board of supervision, from their long connection with the establishment, have become



intimately acquainted with its management in all its details ; and inasmuch as all matters having any important bearing upon the present policy and system of supporting State paupers, have been fully presented and discussed in my former reports, there appears to be little need of any remarks to your Board at this time.

During the past year some necessary out-buildings have been erected, while some of the rooms in the main building have been enlarged or altered, thereby securing advantages not before attained. Upon the farm, as heretofore, much has been done, not only by cultivating and enriching the soil, but such improvements as add to the beauty, as well as value of the farm, have and continue to receive their full share of attention.

During the present season, about thirty acres of land have been under cultivation, devoted mainly to the raising of vegetables of various kinds. The hay crop has considerably increased from that of former years, and in a year or two more enough will be raised to feed all the stock that it will be desirable to keep.

The other crops are all good, and with the exception of the loss of about one-half of the potato crop, an abundant harvest is promised.

Although much has been done in the way of removing rocks and stumps, and building durable walls, it is proper in this connection, to remark, that comparatively speaking, we get from the inmates very little available labor ; nothing like what is requisite for all practical purposes.

The reason of this is apparent to all who are acquainted with the class of persons sent here.

The able-bodied or travelling paupers come only at that season of the year when little or nothing can be done out of doors ; this they well know, and appreciate it, as the large number of admissions of this class plainly shows.

When they come in for winter quarters, their story is, invariably, they can get no work, and of course prefer to eat the bread of idleness furnished by other members of the Commonwealth who cannot live without work ; and in many instances, get no more compensation for it than our winter paupers might get (many of them at least) if they desired to, viz., their board and clothing.

That the law passed at the last session of the legislature will, to a great extent, prevent the abuse now heaped upon the Commonwealth by this travelling imposition, or in other words, those who do not mean to work in the winter, I think there can be no doubt. It provides as follows:—

[Chapter 168.]

SECTION 1. The superintendents of the several state almshouses, shall have power, with the consent of the inspectors, to contract with any person or persons, for the employment of any inmate of said institutions, in any kind of lawful labor, for such wages, or on such terms as the said superintendent and inspectors shall approve; and whenever such contract shall be made such inmate shall be discharged from the institution; and if any inmate for whom such contract has been made, shall refuse to avail himself of the employment so offered, he shall forfeit all claim to support as a state pauper. [Approved, March 27, 1858.]

As this institution has, and is receiving large numbers of the idiotic and demented insane, from the various lunatic hospitals, houses of correction, and occasionally the surplus from institutions similar to this, permit me to suggest for your consideration, whether such a classification of paupers as would collect all the demented and partially insane into one almshouse, might not be beneficial to all concerned. Should the present arrangement continue of supporting a large number of them here, a suitable building should be erected for their accommodation, thereby securing what is very much needed, more hospital room. For those admitted here, afflicted with ophthalmia, there is needed an apartment disconnected from the main building.

At the present time, the health of the inmates is remarkably good, there being less sickness than at any period for the last three years. This is owing mainly, no doubt, to the very few admissions of persons for the past three months, in the last stages of fatal disease.

That this institution has had, and still has the largest number of the above named class of inmates, is well known to all acquainted with the several almshouses.

For all facts connected with the health of the institution, or the medical department, you are referred to the report of the physician in charge, which is full and complete, covering all

matters connected with the administration of this department of the institution.

As formerly, two schools are kept; one for the boys, another for the girls. These have been as successful as could reasonably have been expected. Where there is a constant alternation of pupils, there cannot be so great proficiency as if it were otherwise. This is readily seen in those few who have been fortunate enough to remain here for three or four years—they are not behind the majority of the children in our public schools. During the past year the chaplaincy has been in charge of Rev. S. Richardson, who has proved himself to be an able teacher, working faithfully and zealously for the spiritual welfare of all under his care. By his talents, energy and devotion to the religious wants of the inmates, he has exerted a salutary influence throughout the institution.

Respectfully submitted,

L. L. GOODSPEED,

*Superintendent.*

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1858.



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

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*To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse at Bridgewater:—*

GENTLEMEN,—The following report of the Medical Department of this institution, for the year ending September 30, 1858, is herewith respectfully submitted.

Number of patients admitted into hospital, . . .	1,568
Discharged well, or greatly improved, . . .	1,137
Number remaining in hospital September 30, . . .	144

Number of deaths in year:—

Males, . . . . .	175
Females, . . . . .	112
Total, . . . . .	287

Number of Births:—

Males, . . . . .	43
Females, . . . . .	33
Total, . . . . .	76

Table showing the ages of those having died:—

Seventy-five years and upwards, . . .	18
Between fifty and seventy-five years, . .	20
twenty-five and fifty years, . . .	50
five and twenty-five years, . . .	34
two and five years, . . .	46
six months and two years, . . .	54
under six months, . . .	65
Total, . . . . .	287

Table showing the diseases most prevalent, and the number dying of each. Of course, many of the subjoined diseases were complicated with old complaints.

Consumption, . . . . .	70
Old age and general debility, . . . . .	23
Inanition, . . . . .	17
Marasmus, . . . . .	25
Scarlet fever, . . . . .	41
Dysentery, . . . . .	3
Chronic diarrhœa, . . . . .	4
Disease of heart, . . . . .	5
Whooping cough, . . . . .	4
Asphyxia, . . . . .	3
Typhoid fever, . . . . .	7
Gangræna oris, . . . . .	10
Senile gangrene, . . . . .	1
Suppression of urine, . . . . .	2
Ascites, . . . . .	4
Pneumonia, . . . . .	8
Measles, . . . . .	8
Lumbar abscess, . . . . .	3
Puerperal fever, . . . . .	2
Inflammatory disease of head, . . . . .	9
Apoplexy, . . . . .	5
Epilepsy, . . . . .	4
Other diseases, . . . . .	29
Total, . . . . .	<hr/> 287

In making up my report for the past twelve months, I regret not to be able to show a large decrease in the number of deaths when compared with my previous one. Still I am gratified to have it in my power to state that the average number of deaths per month is only a little larger than for the ten months ending September 30, 1857, (the period for which my last report was made up,) which was  $22\frac{3}{5}$  per month; while for the twelve months ending September 30, 1858, it has been  $23\frac{1}{2}$ .

Let us look at the difficulties we have had to contend with, and then see if we ought not to be thankful we have been as fortunate as we have.

During the past year we have had a large number of "Kanakas" sent here, within a few days after being discharged from the whalers. A great many of them are in a dying condition when they come here; very few are in perfect health. The change from a warm, dry, and even climate, to this cold, damp and changeable one, soon brings on disease, the lungs most frequently being the seat, of which they seldom recover. The average number of this class in the hospital last winter, was about twenty-five. As the only ports in this State where this class of sailors enter are in this vicinity, and as there are no other means provided for their support when they become destitute, the Bridgewater State almshouse must receive them, a burden from which all the others are entirely exempted. As it is conceded by all, that this climate is almost a sure death to them, an allowance should be made for the number of deaths occurring amongst this class of inmates, which for the last year is thirty-one. Would it be more than just if those who are instrumental in bringing these "unfortunates" to our shores, were compelled to support them from their own private purse until they provided them a ship to return to their own land?

During the winter we were visited by that fatal disease which baffles all skill. I refer to malignant scarlet fever, which for two months made terrible havoc amongst our children. During the months of December and January we lost over forty children under two years of age, from that disease alone, and several more during the two months following, from that, and its results. We also have lost quite a number from measles, which during the past winter and spring have assumed a very fatal type throughout some portions of the State, and left those whom it spared, in a poor condition to contend with any other disease. In the month of March the smallpox broke out here; but as every means were taken to prevent its spreading, we had only six cases, those wholly confined to the male side of the house, and all of them, with one exception, "Kanakas," or South Sea Islanders. We lost two cases. Sixteen of our deaths have been in the lying-in hospital, of infants under two weeks of age; four were twins. Their deaths were owing to several causes. Part of them were so feeble at birth as to leave no hopes of surviving long under any circumstances. Others might have lived longer than they did,



had every thing been favorable ; but they were illegitimate and had inherited disease from one or both of their parents. The mother, of course, did not feel the same interest in its life she would have perhaps under other circumstances, so they soon pined away and died. Two or three have evidently died from asphyxia ; whether accidentally or intentionally, the mother alone can tell. A large number of “foundlings” and orphans are sent here during the year, from two or three days old, up to six months or a year of age. Some have lain in the streets through one night, and have gone without nourishment, no one can tell how long. They are mostly illegitimate and diseased. By the time they get here they are almost dead, and soon die ; it is almost an impossibility to bring one up in one of these institutions, as the statistics too truly show. Some thirty of our deaths have been amongst this class. We have lost seventy cases of consumption. Some of them have been here a long time ; others are brought here on their beds, from which they are taken to the grave.

Several cases have been sent here the last year, in a state which our laws ought to prevent, if humanity does not forbid. I will mention only one or two cases, as samples. During the fall of 1857 a young man was brought here on a bed, some twelve miles ; his disease was phrenitis. He was in a state of profound coma when he arrived here, and remained so till he died, as he did in a few days after his admittance. About one month since, a woman was sent here in a carriage some ten miles, who had been sick with typhoid fever for two or three weeks ; in less than thirty-six hours after she was admitted she died. That her death was caused by her being removed while in so low a state, or, at any rate hastened, I have not a shadow of doubt. I will mention only one more case : on the twenty-first of the present month (September) a strong, robust man was sent here who had been sick with pneumonia for some four or five days ; he reached here about five o'clock, P. M., in so weak a condition that he could not stand up, and was almost entirely insensible. It was evident to any one not acquainted with sickness that he could not long survive ; he died about midnight, seven hours after his admittance. Could such cases as the above expect any medical assistance of ours to avail any thing ?

During a larger part of the past twelve months our house has been crowded with inmates far beyond its capacity. During the winter and most of the spring months, we had over eleven hundred inmates. The largest number we can accommodate and preserve the general health of the inmates, is about eight hundred.

Since our number has been lessened—as it always is somewhat during the summer months—we have enjoyed a remarkable share of health, and our mortality has been very small. In the month of May we lost eight adults and sixteen children ; June, ten adults and two children ; July, five adults and two children ; August, nine adults and two children ; September, seven adults and one child ; making in all, for the last four months ending September 30, 1858, thirty-one adults and seven children, against forty-eight adults and forty-six children, which we lost in the four corresponding months of last year, and sixty-three adults and sixty-two children which we lost during the four months ending May 31, 1858. Although our number of inmates has decreased nearly one-half, yet we had no reason to expect our deaths would decrease in the same ratio ; yet they have, and more, for the number of deaths the past four months is only one-third that of the previous four ; for the inmates who have been discharged were mostly well and strong, while the sick, the halt, the decrepit, and the weak children, are left behind.

I think I have said enough to account for the mortality, and give some idea of what those in charge of our almshouses have to contend with. In conclusion, I would thank the Superintendent, L. L. Goodspeed, and his kind lady, for the interest they have taken in the medical department of this institution, and their readiness to assist and provide whatever I have needed. Also, to my consulting physicians, Drs. Pratt, of Bridgewater, and Robinson, of Titicut, for their valuable assistance and advice when called upon to give it.

GEORGE B. COGSWELL,

*Attending Physician.*

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1858.

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

*To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse, Bridgewater:—*

GENTLEMEN,—The following brief statements, connected with the chaplaincy of the institution under your inspection, are respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Religious services have been regularly attended to every Sabbath. The utmost order has characterized all who have engaged in these exercises; while serious, and apparently devout attention has been given by many to the precepts of God's word, as explained and enforced. Plain instruction and direct appeal, seeking immediate reformation, seem to be the mode, and object, which most effectually arrest the attention even of the most thoughtless. All allusions, that might excite religious prejudices, are carefully avoided. Thus confidence seems to be established, and the mind directly turned to the consideration of personal amendment. While the aged and infirm, the erring and vicious, are exhorted to hope, and to reformation of life; the young, especially claiming our attention, as those whose destiny for weal or wo, depends mainly upon their early mental and moral training, are directed with anxious solicitude to avoid error, in principle and practice—to "fear God and keep his commandments." That the seed sown may not be unfruitful, and that the masses of these children may become useful members of society, rather than through vicious habits remain pensioners of its bounty, pains-taking, and assiduous effort have not been wanting.

I am happy to state that, during the latter part of the year the attendance in the chapel has been greater than usual, owing to the unprecedented good health of the inmates.

The schools connected with the institution are in a flourishing condition. The teachers not only seek intellectual devel-



opment, but by constant intercourse with the children committed to their care, exert a silent, parental influence over them, not second in importance even to the instructions given during the regular school hours. The interest and sympathy manifested for them by their guardian instructors checks waywardness, and develops the better feelings of their nature.

In the performance of the duties assigned me, it gives me much pleasure to state, that I have always had the hearty coöperation of the Superintendent.

In conclusion, permit me, gentlemen, gratefully to refer to the interest you have uniformly manifested in the mental and moral improvement of all classes in the institution committed to your inspection.

SAMUEL RICHARDSON,

*Chaplain.*

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1858.

